

“Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting.” Psalm 100:4

What are we thankful for? We are thankful for God’s goodness and grace, for family and friends, for God’s bounty and beauty. God has **“blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”** (Eph. 1:3) There are so many things to be thankful for but we are especially thankful for you. We praise and thank God for your friendship and fellowship, your faithful prayers and support and your partnership with us in the ministries of **Asas de Socorro** throughout the Amazon, Brazil!



October was a busy month. **While you prayed...**



- **The two new pilots Wilson has been training: Cesar and Ricardo both passed all their check flights and evaluations and got their licenses to become full-fledged pilots** for the mission’s larger plane, the C208 Caravan. The Caravan requires two pilots at all times so now they will be able to alternate flights some.



- **I was at an all-day seminar on Christians and the Environment.** The seminar was fantastic. Since we work in the interior of the state we are very careful to do all we can to be ecologically correct and environmentally safe. Examples: Disposing all garbage from trips properly and not dumping it in the river (unless it’s food remains to feed the fish!), by teaching village people homeopathic remedies for their illnesses using plants and materials surrounding the village and also by helping them to be aware of ways in which they can care for God’s creation. We ended the seminar by working in teams to formulate a project (without access to any funds) that could be carried out in one afternoon that would make use of the environment in some way to preserve it and benefit the people of a given area (village). Asas de Socorro partners together with this organization (THE ROCK) and several of our staff participated.



- **Members from our staff went on a 4-day clinic trip** in partnership with a local church to coordinate ministries in a river village. There was a record high of 120 degrees, the river was so dry it was a LONG haul getting the equipment up the river bank, a barber rolled down that bank and ended up having 20 stitches, and one dental machine quit working. Satan’s attacks are very real, but in Christ, the victory is ours. The team ministered through clinic work, evangelization, children’s ministries and preaching. God convicted many of sins and some gave their lives to Christ.



- **An incredible storm passed through.** The boat mentioned above was on the main river headed back to Manaus when an extremely dangerous storm blew in tossing and turning it like a cork in a washing machine. **God in His mercy held the boat together, guided it to an inlet for shelter and protected everyone on board.**



- **God’s hand of protection was on our mission plane.** The same storm caused havoc throughout Manaus. Parts of town flooded, one plane at the air club flipped over and the roofing of all the hangars was partly ripped off and badly damaged...except for the hangar of CTA, the air taxi that our plane flies under. Working under this company enables us to give legal receipts for ministry flights and any other flights that are approved of by the mission. Several who work for CTA are not Christians and our staff has had many opportunities to be testimonies among them. Wilson, along with our other pilots started a weekly Bible Study at their request and **while you prayed...**



- **Three couples from CTA Air Taxi have requested to be married legally, sins are being confessed and several of these people are convinced that it was God who protected the planes and their workplace** because Wilson and the other pilots have often prayed with them for God’s protection! We know you have prayed too!!



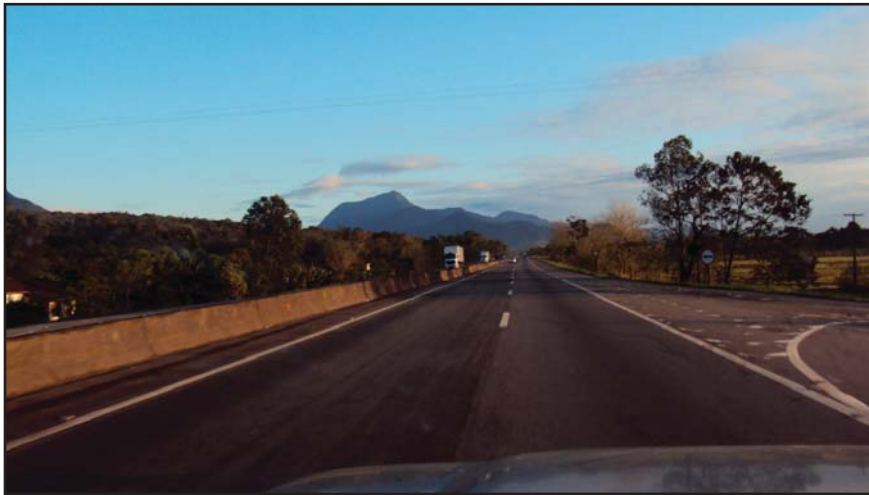
- **Wilson along with 10 other missionaries from our mission and 22 Christian Leaders from other missions, churches, organizations and businesses were elected** to meet once a year. In November they will elect 9 leaders among themselves to form our board of directors. This board will oversee the direction of the mission, evaluate responsibilities and projects and hold us all accountable.



- **The mission sent two single nurses and a family (radio technician)** to Manaus to join forces with our team.

So, while you pray, God is moving in a mighty way. You may not have known about the storm or the new Bible Study at CTA, but through your faithful prayers for us, for protection, for the ministries here, God is orchestrating it all for His honor and glory! We have much to be thankful for. Praise be to God!!

The end of October brought a special treat...a special trip! We took our car to south Brazil in December of 2009 for a mini furlough and visits with our kids and family. We were scheduled to move to Santarém in March to help establish that flight base; and, at a later date, we planned to drive our car straight there from south Brazil. In the meantime, the pilot Wilson trained to take his place was unable to do so due to health and other factors so we were requested to stay in Manaus for the time being and solidify the flight program and the two new pilots. Since Wilson had to go to headquarters for Assembly meetings, we both flew to visit with Wilson's folks and family a few days and then drive our car back to Manaus. (Sending it by barge from Porto Velho would take an extra two weeks or more depending on the availability of space and the depth of the river which is so low right now that passage is impossible).



Our trip began in Itajá, Santa Catarina. We were on the road 13 ½ hrs. the first day and another 8 hrs. the second day arriving at mission headquarters in Anápolis, GO. for the meetings. (approx. 1300 miles) Early Friday morning we headed out once again. Destination? Manaus! The first day we reached Cuiabá arriving in time to eat and sleep (800 miles). The second day we crossed over into the state of Rondônia and slept in the town of Cacoal (another 750 miles). The

trip until this point was absolutely serene, gorgeous skies, beautiful weather, great roads and breathtaking scenery of little towns, farms and ranches along the way. We broke up the hours of travel time with snacks, conversations, sermons and a book we are reading together. These first three nights we stayed at simple, but nice hotels which included bed and breakfast.

At the end of the third day we reached the state of the Amazon travelling 6 more hrs. and stopping around 10:30 pm. We found ourselves nestled in the car in the middle of the jungle with the windows wide open and the sounds of millions of little creatures lulling us to sleep! Having tossed and turned and tuned to those critter sounds for a good 4 hours we decided to continue our journey since the moon was bright and the skies



clear. This is not a trip you want to make when it's raining. Wilson knows because he made this same trip when he took the car to south Brazil in the first place. Now we were facing 480 miles of dirt road ahead of us stretching in a straight line through the Amazon Jungle (if you can call what we were travelling on a road!) There would be no towns, almost no people and absolutely no gas stations or food other than what you find in the jungle. We took along an abundant supply of tools, gas, oil, water, snacks, food and

TP! Every 28 miles there was a house and a tower from the telephone company (lest you get your hopes up...there was also NO access to phones or internet of any kind).

So how was the trip? We praise God for His amazing creation (eat your hearts out you plant and animal lovers) and His power and protection. We saw the jungle first hand (all 22 hours of it). We saw a tapir that had to be around 450 lbs, some frogs, birds, butterflies and a wild pig. We also saw man's attempt to carve a road through that creation. Over the years the high humidity and torrential rains, the constant heat of the sun and the sprouting, growing plants cracked the pavement and caused the jungle to invade everything in its way. With no more funding for proper upkeep the road has become a worn, hard, sort of twisting, lumpy, super bumpy path. Originally it was a paved divided highway...no margins along the sides. Years later people broke up the asphalt to fill in oodles of potholes. Now there are short stretches of dirt interspersed with blocks of broken up asphalt which we would hit with a jerk as we went up and down, on and off of it. Parts of the road were built up high. When it rains, the dirt, or hard clay is so slippery you can literally slide right off the road and into huge ditches or over mini cliffs. We were so thankful for sunny weather, good vision and moderate temperatures!



I wish you could have seen us both to understand the incongruity of it all. Here is Wilson having the time of his life, in his element, driving, "racing," conquering his way through miles of manmade mess, facing each challenge head on, experiencing victory through every pothole (best defined as craters) and over every bridge... hacking our way at times through fallen trees, reaching our destination. Then there's

me, terrified to defy nature, horrified at what I saw, closing my eyes hoping it would go away and honestly believing that as the hours went by things would get better only to realize that until the very end it only got worse! Twice I got out of the car and walked across a bridge praying intensely that Wilson would not crash through. (And no, I just couldn't bear to watch.) After all, we only saw 3 cars in all those hours so there would not be much help to come to our rescue and no shop or parts. Not to mention no restroom facilities. Wilson felt exhilarated, up to the challenge. I felt like I was in a cement mixer for 22 hours, tumbling along, bouncing, banging and hanging on for dear life. We both felt like just a speck in the whole universe in that immense jungle and yet it's awesome to know that God cares so much about each one of us that He sent Christ to die for us! The trip was incredible, indescribable...a unique once in a life time experience, at least for me! (I know our kids are finding this all totally hilarious. I bequeath this trip to them!) The BEST way to share with you what we saw and experienced is through the pictures on our website at <http://wilsonandlori.com/pictures2m.htm>. They represent (in a small way) 22 hours of a true, jungle experience. Julie said we could be on a TV show about couples who conquer the world and survive. Well, we DID and lived to tell the story!! (At least I am still breathing!)

Thank you for your faithfulness in upholding our family, coworkers and ministries in prayer!

*Love in Christ,
Lori and Wilson*

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Manaus Morsels

Please continue to pray for safety and for the basic survival of people in the river villages. It's dry season (until the end of Nov.). It's also the time of year that the atmosphere is unstable and the rainy season is on it's way. This is the time of year that storms form. The frequency and intensity of these storms have increased over the years. In the last month, Manaus has suffered 3 storms with hard driving rain, hail and intense winds (one tornado touched down on the other side of town). On the other hand, the rivers are still drying up making it hard to reach most areas by boat and some by plane. Not only have the inlets (lakes) completely dried up in some villages so there is a shortage of water and food (fish supply), but now that there is almost a record low already this year, the river banks in many areas are caving in and several people have died recently. In at least 7 towns, large portions of the river banks fell into the river and took houses and buildings with it. (They often situate their villages right on the edge of the river banks). Please pray with us for flight safety and the basic survival of the people living in river villages!

	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Birthday</i>
<i>Wilson</i>	<i>011-55-92-3236-2100</i>	<i>asasmission@cs.com or wilson_kannenberghotmail.com</i>	<i>08/10/55</i>
<i>Lori</i>	<i>011-55-92-3236-2100</i>	<i>wl3jk@vivax.com.br or lori.kannenberghotmail.com</i>	<i>3/25/58</i>

*Wilson and Lori Kannenberg
C.P. 2012
Manaus, AM 69072-970
Brazil, S.A.
www.wilsonandlori.com*

*MONTHLY SUPPORT GIFTS
may be sent in our name to
Mission Aviation Fellowship
P.O. Box 47
Nampa, ID 83653*

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support Lori and Wilson Kannenberg or if
you need any information call: 1-800-359-
7623 (donor department at MAF)*

Any personal gifts can be sent in our name to Les Bluhm, W197 S7544 Ridge Rd., Muskego, WI 53150-9231. He will deposit them into our personal account. We will not be able to send tax deductible receipts for personal money gifts.